

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 21 and 31 have been canceled, leaving claims 14-20, 22-30 and 32 pending.

The Section 112 rejection is obviated by the cancellation of claims 21 and 31.

Reconsideration of the Section 102 rejections is respectfully requested.

Independent claims 14 and 23 specify that the safety hook is a bent section of the free end of the wiper arm. By this it is meant that the free end of the wiper arm is bent to form the safety hook. This construction is described on page 5, lines 3 through 7, of the specification, which states that the "free end 12 [of the wiper arm 10] is bent around so that it forms a safety hook 20 to grip around the wiper blade 16. In this case, the flat material of the wiper arm 10 is twisted and bent in such a way that a safety hook 20 projecting by 90 degrees to the longitudinal direction and describing a lateral curve is formed."

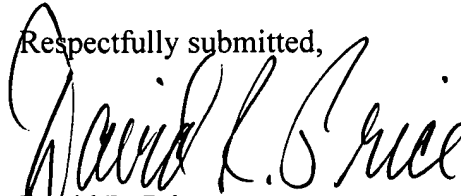
The limitation in claim 14 "beyond the position of the articulating bolt" describes the location of the bent section, not how far the safety hook extends. The key limitation, however, in both claim 14 and claim 23, is that the free end of the wiper arm is bent to form the safety hook, as clearly described in Applicants' specification and illustrated in Figs. 4a and 4b.

This construction is not suggested by any of the cited references. In all three of the references relied on by the Examiner, the safety hook is spaced a significant distance from the free end of the wiper arm, on the other side of the bolt relative to the free end.

Therefore, claims 14-20, 22-30 and 32 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing, entry of the above amendment and allowance of claims 14-20, 22-30 and 32 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David R. Price". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "P".

David R. Price
Reg. No. 31,557

Docket No.: 081276-1019
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
100 East Wisconsin Avenue
Suite 3300
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4108
414.271.6560